

[Life as a Student \(1890-1900\)](#)[Letters](#)

Fall 9-25-1898

09-25-1898

Harriet Sweetser

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minutes. There was a little trouble, some of the girls got on the wrong side of the hose and when they turned the corners the went around flying. The water was not turned on but they will drill every few days. Miss White said she was going to sound an alarm some night at twelve o'clock and the girls must be at their places in so many minutes or else they will be fined. It is going to be a great thing when we get so that we all

P.S. I have seen Hugh McClellan's house that it tells about in Lord Old Times and I am going to the top of that place this afternoon. That is where the old fort or block house used to be. There are lots of interesting things to see here. Hugh McClellan and his wife are buried very near in an old burning yard. Be sure and let me know about coming.

Gorham Maine
Sept. 25th 1898.

Dear Mamma:-

I have just finished my dinner and am going to write some letters. It was a very pleasant day but I guess the sun is coming out by and by.

Last night the fire department was organized. Grace and I both belong to Company 1. and Eunice has to shut all the doors and windows on second floor in the main wing. Grace tends the valve and she has to stand at the

salvo all of the time.

We had a drill last night. Mr. Samson the janitor rang the bell and you should have seen the girls fly.

The captain of our company is a short fat girl and she has got more courage than any other girl in the house.

There are seven girls in each department and beside these there is a girl to close the fireproof door that shuts off the wing from the main part of the house. No girls to see that lamps are lighted ^{if the fire is at night} and no girls to shut all doors and windows. This makes twelve girls in each floor.

Captain Dewby takes the nozzle of the hose, holding her about five feet apart from the other girls (I am the last one). Grace stands by the pipe.

Miss White is the boss of all the departments and she is a very large woman.

The Captain on the next floor is the teacher of the Academy and she is larger than you.

When the bell sounded every girl made for the hose and Co. 1 located the fire in No. 35 on the second floor then Companies 2, 3 & 4 were called out and every company was at No. 35 in less than three

mean to her mother
wsee if someone
will not come
on and take us
home but the
rain from here
conclude with the
night rain not
so that we can
come that may
and we shall not
have to come back
until the night
rain Monday.
It is the best time
we shall have
before Thanksgiving
so you had better
let me come.
Write and let
me know if I can.
With love & respect

oral spelling lesson and
we have to spell the way (156)
Chris Merrill teaches. I cannot
spell that way I get twisted
and forget what I am
spelling before I get through.
Next Saturday night you had
better take an apple pot of
beans for I will help you eat
them up. Eunice, Grace & I
are all coming home then if
nothing hinders and you
will let me come. Grace and
Eunice are coming any way
and want to come. Grace has

5
know just what to do.

A week from to-morrow the
house is to be open to anyone
who wants to go over it and all
of the rooms have to be open.
It rained Friday and Saturday
and Friday night we had a
terrible thunder shower.

That was all nonsense about
our rank Prof. Conthel said "you
are all right." He is real nice
I like him better than the rest
of the teachers. There is one that
we do not like at all.

Prof. Conthel wants everything

(156)

just so, he says "You must learn everything interrogatum, utrum, and punctatum."

Next Tuesday some one of the scholars has got to teach the grammar lesson and some we have soup and fish the geometry lesson. I hope I shall not have to. They are doing different this year than they have ever done before. The scholars have never had to teach the class until the second year before.

Our cook is going to leave us for a week so I expect we shall have terrible food. Our cook is splendid she makes everything nice. Everything they have here is good except the breakfast

and that is so tough that you can not cut it.

We do not have baked beans Saturday night but we have them Wednesday noon and Friday, boiled dinner Saturday and fish balls Sunday morning. The other days we have lamb, and roast beef. We have meat three times a day.

I could not wait on tables any way because there are only four waiters and they got the chance before school commenced. But I have a plenty to do I don't have much time to practice. Last Saturday my had an